

Legislative Fiscal Bureau

Fiscal Note

HF 2540 – Local Government Consolidation (LSB 5930 HV)

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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

House File 2540 establishes a local government consolidation committee in each county to study whether a charter of consolidation should be presented to voters. Counties that have a charter commission in place as of July 1, 2002, are exempt from the proposed legislation.

Assumptions

1. Polk County currently has a charter commission in place.
2. The total population of the remaining 98 counties is approximately 2,600,000.
3. The total annual expenses to be paid from the county General fund shall not exceed \$100,000 per county or an amount equal to \$.30 per capita in the county. The commission may employ staff as necessary.
4. The committee is to submit a preliminary report to the county board of supervisors within 7 months of organizing, and a final report within 12 months of organizing.
5. Expenses may be paid from the general fund of the county or from any combination of public or private funds available for that purpose. The commission's annual expenses may exceed the amount in Section 331.234(3), Code of Iowa, if the excess is paid from private funds.
6. Makes inapplicable Section 25B.2(3), Code of Iowa, which would relieve a political subdivision from complying with a State mandate if funding for the cost of the State mandate is not provided or specified. The Bill would include a State mandate. The amount of private funds that would be received is unknown.
7. The number and costs of special elections are unknown.
8. The proposal will not have a significant impact on the Judicial Department.
9. Total value of in-kind expenses is unknown.

Fiscal Impact

Due to insufficient information, the fiscal impact of HF 2540 cannot be determined. However, if all counties except Polk County paid \$.30 per capita, the fiscal impact would be an increase in total county general fund expenditures of approximately \$800,000. If all counties except Polk County paid \$100,000, the maximum allowed for public funding, the fiscal impact would be an increase in total county general fund expenditures of approximately \$10.0 million. These costs would not include any cost associated with the value of the in-kind expenses provided by counties.

The commission's annual expenses may exceed the above amounts, only if the excess is paid from private funds.

Expenses would be paid from the county General Fund, or from any combination of public or private funds.

The costs of special elections are unknown.

Sources

Linn County Board of Supervisors
Iowa State University, Census Services
Judicial Department

/s/ Dennis C Prouty

March 11, 2002

The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to members of the Legislature upon request.
